illiterate female candidates who are awaiting appointment for want of suitable vacancies. Since these candidates ordinarily want posting at the same place where the ex-employee was working, it becomes difficult to locate such vacancies. However, efforts are being made to adjust such candidates at the places of their choice, as far as possible. Besides this, there are 27 cases which are subjudice in various Courts. The balance 92 cases are pending either for want of documents from the applicants, disputes amongst the claimants etc. or are at various stages of progress. Efforts are being made to expedite finalization of such cases.

**Sheoraphuly-Tarakeshwar double line project**

2244. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of the project for laying double line between Sheoraphuly and Tarakeshwar;

(b) how much more time it would take to complete the project; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The patch doubling of Sheoraphuli-Nalikul section has been taken up as Phase-I of Sheoraphuli-Tarakeshwar doubling. The work is in progress between Sheoraphuli and Diara. This Phase will be progressed to completion in the coming years as per availability of resources.

**Connivance between Touts and Railway Employees in Rail Reservation**

†2245. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 736 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th July, 2001 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that railway employees connive with touts, in order to get undue advantages; and

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the number of raids conducted in each Zone during the last one year and in the current year so far, alongwith the action taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) A few such incidents have come to notice.

(b) The number of checks conducted on each Zonal Railway agaisnt touts during the last year *i.e.* 2000 and the current year *i.e.* January to May, 2001 are as under:—

| Railway | Number of checks | |
|---|---|---|
| | 2000 | 2001 (Jan. to May 2001) |
| CENTRAL | 2729 | 1150 |
| EASTERN | 2573 | 1122 |
| NORTHERN | 1626 | 461 |
| N.E. | 3230 | 1307 |
| N.F. | 1082 | 468 |
| SOUTHERN | 8971 | 2950 |
| S.C. | 3999 | 1702 |
| S.E. | 1695 | 694 |
| WESTERN | 6485 | 2731 |
| TOTAL: | 32390 | 12585 |

Staff found conniving in malpractices are taken up under Discipline and Appeal Rules.